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Blackdown Hills

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Issue No 95 November 2012

Wind turbine application withdrawn following more than 200 objections

PLANS for a contentious wind turbine at Highlands Farm in Hemyock have been withdrawn by the applicant.

More than 200 residents lodged objections to the plans for the largest wind turbine on the Blackdown Hills and Neil Parish, MP for Tiverton and Honiton, wrote to Mid Devon District Council to object.

Objectors argued that the 34.2 metre

wind turbine would disrupt the beautiful countryside in the surrounding area. The turbine would have been not only been seen from Hemyock but from Simonsburrow, Rosemary Lane and from the Ridgeway up to four miles away.

The council received around 220 letters from the public and just four of them were in favour of the wind tur-

bine. The remainder registered objections on the grounds of its height, noise and intrusiveness in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In his letter Mr Parish said: "This wind turbine runs counter to the Devon Structure Plan" and that the government intends to "reduce the subsidy for on-land turbines due to concern about the number of turbines

and how intrusive they are into the countryside".

Mr Tonks, the applicant's agent, wrote to Mid Devon District Council to withdraw the application specifically referring to the role played by the AONB and Hemyock Parish Council as being main factors in the decision to withdraw.

Sign up for the directory and the artisans' trail

BUSINESSES and artisans in the Blackdown Hills have until the end of this month to take advantage of promoting themselves in the 2013 Blackdown Hills Business Directory or on the Artisans' Trail.

Booking closes on November 30th for those wishing to attract new customers in this way - *see page 15*.

Working together to promote volunteering

A WIDE range of organisations are working together to promote countryside volunteering on the Blackdown Hills.

The Blackdown Hills Countryside Volunteering Hub is growing all the time and will provide a useful forum for volunteer providers and an opportunity to share skills, experiences and knowledge about working with volunteers.

Blackdown Hills Countryside Volunteering is part of the 'Force for Nature' initiative encouraging more volunteering in the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Blackdown Hills Sustainable Development Fund.

The project is led by the Blackdown Hills Trust and co-ordinated by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership and the Forestry Commission.



◆ VOLUNTEERS: Hub members pictured after their launch gathering outside the Blackdown Hills Healthy Living Centre earlier this year

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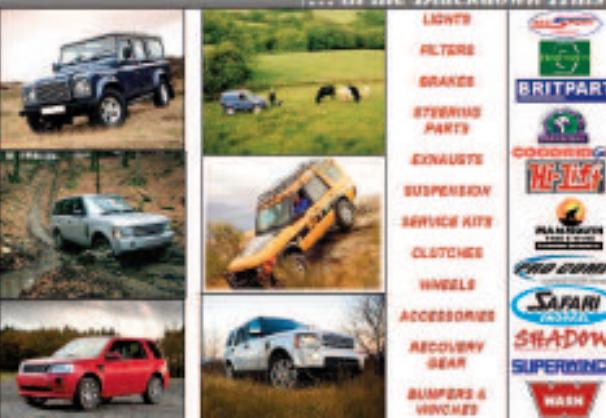
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Celebration as refurbished hall officially opens

A WINE AND CHEESE reception marked the official opening of the refurbished main hall of Churchinford and District Village Hall.

The event was attended by representatives of the organisations who use the hall, as well as members of the local community.

Barbara Simpson, chairman of trustees, welcomed everyone to the evening, and mentioned in particular Vivienne Stock-Williams representing Viridor Credits Environmental Company who provided much of the funds to enable the works to be completed.

Mrs Simpson then introduced Councillor Ross Henley, the Somerset county councillor who represents Churchinford, to officially declare the hall open.

Councillor Henley has been a great supporter of the hall, and the parish, over the last few years.

The works carried out included the total replacement of the hall linings with insulated plaster board, and plastering, additional heating, replacement of existing lighting as well as installation of wall lights, replacement ovens in the kitchen, installation of a new roller shutter in the hall/kitchen hatch, and total redecoration of the main hall.

The works would have not been possible without the generous financial assistance of Viridor Credits Environmental Company, through the Landfill Communities Fund, who provided £20,500, with further funding being provided by the Churchstanton Parish Council, Churchstanton Parish Allotments Charity, and Western Power Distribution through their Community Chest fund.

Other valuable support, which included the provision and installation of the roller shutters, and installation of the new ovens, came from private donors.

Anyone who would like to view or book the hall is asked to contact Sylvia Pike on 01823 601236.

Sharing memories from the role of Dunkeswell Airfield in World War II

PEOPLE in the Blackdown Hills are being invited to get involved with a new online video project telling the remarkable stories of Dunkeswell Airfield and its role in World War II.

The project is being run by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, and has been made possible thanks to a grant of £39,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), together with funding from Devon County Council and Dunkeswell Parish Council.

Designed for children and families, the project will tell the stories of a community at war 70 years ago and the impact that the wartime construction of the airfield had on local life.

It will also show how the shape of the landscape gave the Blackdown Hills unique strategic importance.

Produced by digital film company Dream Machine Media, which is based nearby, the project seeks to link the memories of local people who experienced the war with those who served and died fulfilling Dunkeswell's vital wartime role. Dream Machine producer Dr Phil Hall, who is working with local volunteers including school children and history groups, to tell the stories for a new audience, says he has rarely encountered such rich and varied experiences.

"Many of the people we are speaking to were themselves children during the war,

and share our passion for ensuring that future generations understand the contribution that Dunkeswell played 70 years ago".

Commenting on HLF's support for the project, acting Head of South West, Richard Bellamy, said: "Dunkeswell played a key role in the defence of wartime Britain, as a base for both RAF and US airmen. Seventy years on, we were very pleased to be able to help with this project, which will ensure that the stories of both the service personnel based in the area and the existing local community of the period can be captured for the future and appreciated by generations to come."



◆ DELIGHTED: The ladies of Honiton Golf Club with their lottery cheque

Lottery grant benefits golf club facilities

MEMBERS of Honiton Golf Club will soon be enjoying the luxury of on course toilet facilities, thanks to a new National Lottery-funded project.

The new facilities have been made possible by a £24,000 grant from Sport England, working with local communities to get people playing more sport.

The club attracts a number of golfers who wish to continue to play but who are unable to cope with the hills of other clubs in East Devon.

For this reason, the age profile in the ladies section is relatively high and when playing golf rounds which can take up to four hours to complete, the lack of toilet on the course has become a problem.

The new facilities however, will not only help the ladies but the club as a whole and will be welcomed by members of all ages to improve their comfort during games.

Lady Captain at Honiton Golf Club, Jackie Seager, said: "It has

taken three years to succeed at getting this grant from the lottery but the work has been worth it.

"Our ladies are absolutely delighted with this award and cannot wait to see the facilities installed.

"Our eternal thanks to Barbara Mullett, she has worked tirelessly on this project from its inception, she really is a treasure".

Work on the new site facilities will begin at the end of October with an official opening being planned for November.



The practice is staffed by 8 dedicated and experienced farm animal vets. From branches in Wellington and Broadhembury we cover a large and expanding geographical area that is centered in the Blackdown Hills. As well as dealing with individual clinical cases we are heavily involved with herd and flock planning and advocate a proactive approach to disease control. Most of our dairy clients have a routine fertility visit and we use this opportunity to discuss all aspects of a herd's performance, including mastitis, lameness, fertility and nutrition. We provide an independent voice you can trust to help analyse information from your nutritionist, your fertility records and your milk records and we routinely use modern computer programs such as Interherd, TotalVet or Rumnut.

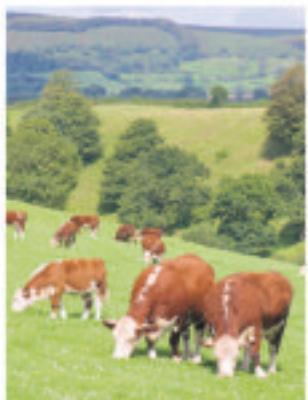
All of the vets live locally and a number are usually working within the Blackdowns. This means that if you have an emergency we can get to you quickly, it also means that we can deliver drugs to farm easily. Medicines can be put up for collection any time from the Wellington and the Broadhembury branch.



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Hundreds enjoy the heritage of the hills

OVER 300 people enjoyed exploring the past at the Blackdown Hills Heritage Day this autumn.

The one-day event, which was organised by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, included talks, displays, walks and events across the area.

At Throgmorton Hall in Dunkeswell, visitors listened to a fascinating series of short talks and browsed an exhibition put together by local heritage groups. Two members of the public even re-

alised that they were related while they were looking at old photographs! Pamela Clarke and Dan Sparks were enjoying the Blackdown archive display when they both recognised a mutual relation, and realised that they were second cousins. They had last seen each other over 40 years ago.

In the afternoon, there was a variety of events to choose from, including an Iron Age experience at Whitestaunton, guided tours of Dunkeswell Abbey and Castle Neroche and a stroll through the ancient hedgerows and traditional

buildings of Stockland.

Katherine Findlay, the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership's information officer said: "It's been a wonderful day and we delighted that so many people have come along to celebrate the rich heritage of the Blackdown Hills. We'd like to thank all the groups who have got involved, bringing along fantastic displays, dressing up in period costume, offering crafts to try and so many interesting things to learn about. It proves just how much people value the AONB's history and culture".



◆ HEDGES AND HOUSES: taking a new look at Stockland



◆ MAKING A BOW: in the old fashioned way



◆ IRON AGE: a shelter at Whitestaunton



◆ WHITTLING AWAY: visitors have a go at a traditional craft



◆ SECOND COUSINS: Pamela Clarke and Dan Sparks realise they are related

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Lions to the rescue as hot water runs cold at pre-school



◆ **BIG THANK YOU:** Lion Ed was presented with a thank you gift for the Lions from Annie at the school

◆ **OUT OF THE HOT WATER:** Mrs Bright with children and staff receiving cheque for £329 from Lion Ed Prescud for their new boiler

UPOTTERY Pre-school were rescued from 'hot water' when the Honiton and District Lions Club funded their new water heater.

After being advised that their hot water boiler was rusty inside and in need of replacement, Upottery Pre-school needed financial help quickly in order to keep hot water supplies to their kitchen and toilet facilities.

Funds from the village just could not cover the expense and so the lions club stepped in to save the day.

Lions, Ed Prescud and Roy Ward presented Mrs Bright and the staff at the

pre-school with a cheque of £329.24 to cover the cost of the new boiler.

Pre-school staff were very grateful for the donation and presented Mr Prescud with a gift for the lions from to say thanks you for their financial support and generosity.

Rags to riches for Offwell primary

THEY say one person's rubbish is another person's treasure and that is certainly true for Offwell Primary School who have signed up to a recycling scheme aiming to turn old and unwanted clothing into much needed funds.

The school is hoping to raise funds for a new outdoor area and is running their fundraising recycling campaign in partnership with experts at 'Phil' the Bag.'

The initiative will give the school up to £600 for every tonne of clothing collected. As they pay by the kilo, every item counts and members of the PTA are hoping that the public

can be generous to give the school a welcome boost.

Member of Offwell Primary School PTA, Emma Milford said: "Fundraising traditionally calls for donations of money, but not this time. Instead, we want items usually placed in the bin."

"In this climate of fast-fashion, people are replacing their clothes more frequently than ever. The old ones usually end up binned, or are left in the back of a wardrobe, gathering dust."

"Despite a number of local textile banks and charity shops that welcome donations of used clothing,

many people still bin their old unwanted clothing, so why not donate them instead?"

"You'll be helping us raise money for our new outdoor area and you'll be helping the environment at the same time."

The school will begin their main collection of donations on Monday November 5th following half term week.

To participate in this eco-friendly fundraiser, simply drop off your unwanted clothing in any type of bag at Offwell Primary School Office before November 14th.

Toddlers will get their own equipment at park

CHARDSTOCK Play Area will get equipment for toddlers thanks to a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

The play area is maintained and managed by a group of volunteers under the name of Chardstock Park Trust, which was formed in 2009 to reopen the then derelict play area. With the help of the community the play area reopened in 2010 and - after many charity fundraising events and countless grant applications - a rotating climbing frame, triple swing and safety flooring were installed for the older children in 2011.

Trust secretary Donna Jacobs said: "Chardstock Park Trust are delighted to announce that they have been awarded £10,000 from the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund to purchase play equipment for a new toddler area."

"The money will enable play equipment, specifically for younger children, to be purchased."

"Work has been underway for a few months by the committee and local contractors to prepare the new area and now that funds have been secured, the play equipment is on order."

"The new toddler area will be completed by spring 2013. "We are very much looking forward to providing the younger members of the community with their own dedicated play area and will be installing equipment that they have asked for."

"Our overall aim is to provide a fun and safe area for children to play and a sociable area for all ages of the community to use."

If you are interested in becoming involved with Chardstock Park Trust email chardstockparktrust@hotmail.co.uk

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WORKING OUR WOODLANDS

**Blackdown and East Devon
Woodland Association
with John Greenshields**

A NEW survey by the Forestry Commission shows that the west country has 11 per cent woodland cover - that is 45,000 ha, but the UK is still way behind most of Europe.

The survey is part of the national forest inventory 2009 - 2012, 32 per cent of that woodland is made up of woods that are less than 10 ha. That's 14,400 ha of small woodlands, most in under management - sorry about all these facts, but it highlights the need to plant more woodland.

I am writing this in the middle of October and it's still raining, please spare a thought for the farmers, with a reduced amount feed at a higher price, and no seed in, it looks pretty grim.

We also have problems in the woodland, with the felling season some way through we are way behind, and low in wood fuel stocks. Planting trees is also difficult in these conditions, getting men and machinery onto the land.

Timber extraction in normal conditions is hard enough, but having machinery stuck or sliding around is dangerous, and bad news for the flora and fauna. We have sites that probably will not now be done this season. This will mean a shortage of British timber on the market.

There is now a ban on importing ash trees from abroad. I have no idea why we needed to import ash trees in the first place (perhaps someone could tell me). The fungus that causes "Ash Die Back" has wiped out 90 per cent of the ash trees in Denmark in seven years and is becoming widespread in Europe. This I am very afraid could be the new Dutch Elm Disease, for those who remember it changed our country side.

It's not all doom and gloom, I met a guy a few days ago keen to plant a few acres of woodland, while I was there his neighbour came over, and after a chat said "whatever you plant I will match".

After that I went to the Woodland Trust and they said they would fund 70 per cent of the total costs of creating the woodlands - result or what!

There is a saying that goes: "It takes 300 years for an oak tree to grow, 300 years to live, and 300 years to die"

My usual contacts 01823660764
parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk

A hidden and historic gem emerges from undergrowth

WORKERS on a disused farm near the Wellington Monument have discovered a hidden gem.

It is a small farmhouse which was almost hidden on the edge of scrub and woodland. The rare type of farmhouse called a lobby entrance farmhouse, and, because of its size, is almost unique in Devon. Built of stone, cob and thatch in the 1600's the house had been occupied for over 400 years.

Inside the lobby entrance door there is a double size chimney that takes up a third of the internal space. There are back-to-back inglenook fireplaces; one with a bread oven, and cross oak beams supporting the two upstairs rooms over the kitchen and parlour. There is a stone built privy and a similar small barn. An attached shed served as the dairy and there is a 19th century lean-to storeroom.

This extraordinarily important find came about when the current owners took on the land and associated woods three years ago to extend their grazing.

Sold at auction the land had been allowed to deteriorate. After clearing the ditches and opening the land drains, as well as trimming the ragged hedges, removing fallen trees and

fencing the road, attention turned to the small group of buildings under rusting corrugated iron and encroaching ivy.

Clearing out debris from the part collapsed thatch, the original previously well-hidden structure became obvious. An archaeological survey led to English Heritage making it a Grade II Listed Building of local and national historical importance, placing a duty of care on the owners and the local authority.

A specialist conservation architect has been working with conservationists and planners to find the best economic way to protect the



■ THE historic lobby entrance farmhouse

building for posterity. There was general agreement that bringing the farmhouse back into use for a family would best

protect it for the future. Plans for the conversion have been submitted to Mid Devon District Council. The plans also include the relocation of a small colony of bats to their own custom built roost to ensure that they too have a long-term home.

Upturn in holiday lettings on the Blackdowns

SPECIALIST self-catering holiday lettings company Classic Cottages is reporting an increased interest from new holiday property owners in the Blackdown Hills, as well as an increase in guests choosing the area to holiday in.

Classic Cottages' property manager for East Devon, Anna Hamlyn, says it's a growing area for the company, with the properties they already have on their books quickly being established as favourites with guests.

"Our cottages in the Blackdown Hills offer beautiful surroundings and unspoilt countryside - I know that everyone says that about their area but it really is true, and the beauty of Devon is that each region is so distinctive," Anna said.

"The appeal of the Blackdown Hills is having the genuine opportunity to switch off from the pressures of daily life and to rediscover some of the essentials of time out. Although the little fishing villages and seaside towns do of course attract visitors, East

Devon remains largely free of the traffic and crowds that can be found in some of the traditional holiday destinations, making it perfect for a quiet getaway."

In the past six months, Classic Cottages has seen a marked increase in enquiries from potential new owners who want to find out more about the area before making a decision on letting a property there.

As a local herself, it's a service Anna is happy to provide.

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Beviss & Beckingsale secures Law Society's new conveyancing quality mark

Beviss & Beckingsale offices in East Devon and South Somerset have secured membership to the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme - the mark of excellence for the home buying process.

Beviss & Beckingsale underwent rigorous assessment by the Law Society in order to secure CQS status, which marks the firm out as meeting high standards in property work.

Law Society President Lucy Scott-Moncrieff said that the Law Society introduced CQS to promote high standards. "CQS has established itself as the quality mark of the home-buying sector and enables consumers to identify practices that provide a quality residential conveyancing service. With so many different conveyancing service providers out there CQS helps home-buyers and sellers seek out those that can provide a safe and efficient level of service."

Mark Ollier, Senior Partner says: "Beviss & Beckingsale is delighted to have secured CQS status. Buying and selling a home can be a stressful time. Choosing a solicitor to

help in that process just got easier. By looking for a CQS firm like Beviss & Beckingsale the public can seek out a firm that has proved its commitment to quality. The overall beneficiaries will be clients who use Beviss & Beckingsale when buying a home. They will receive a reliable, efficient service as recognised by the CQS standard."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self reporting, random audits and annual reviews in order to maintain CQS status.

It is open only to members of the Law Society who meet the demanding standards set by the scheme and has the support of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the Building Societies Association, Legal Ombudsman and the Association of British Insurers.

For more information on the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme visit www.lawsociety.org.uk/cqs Or contact the CQS Unit on 020 7316 5550 or CQS@lawsociety.org.uk

Dinner guests hear how shoes can support the 'Soul of Africa'



◆ GUEST SPEAKER: Lance Clark from Soul of Africa with Heather Stallard MBE

MEMBERS of the Blackdown Hills Business Association enjoyed their annual meeting and dinner at Lakeview Manor.

The guest speaker was Lance Clark who gave an inspirational talk about his work Soul of Africa business which support African orphans through the sale of shoes. To learn more visit <http://soul-of-africa-shoes.co.uk>

The menu included local produce from Ellises Farm; the Blackdown Hills Cheese Company; Gilly's Bakery; Hollies Trout Farm and Highland Farm.



◆ STEVE WHITLEY: Corrymoor Socks



◆ KATHRYN DONNITHORNE: Headspace Counselling



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WITH the festive period around the corner we have everything plant related just on the edge of the Blackdown Hills! At Willowbrook Nursery and Garden Centre we have lots of ideas for presents and will wrap them for you free of charge. With the choice going beyond the plants - you are bound to find a present for almost anyone! At the start of December we have our fresh trees for you to decorate and the Café & Tea-rooms have a Christmas menu through December - so ideal for a small party. Winesolution wine shop have a great range that will also get your party at home going with a swing. Why not come and pay us a visit, our friendly and helpful staff look forward to seeing you. Visit us at www.willowbrookgardencentre.co.uk or on the main A38 between Taunton and Wellington.



WAMBROOK CHRISTMAS FAIR
In aid of Wambrook Church Funds **FREE ENTRY**

Wambrook are proud to announce that
Following the success of the Christmas Fair last year,
our second annual Fair will be held on
Saturday November 10th 10am – 2.30pm
At The Tythe Barn, Cotley
Wide range of stalls, Great BBQ, Excellent Christmas ideas
A really enjoyable day for all the family – do come...!



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**CHRISTMAS TREES
FROM CONNETTS FARM**

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restaurants, churches and country houses

Also growing traditional and non-needle drop varieties
for retail & wholesale. We can supply, erect and take
away & also provide stands, mistletoe & holly

Contact Nick on
01404 891684 or 07860 459745
Connetts Farm,
Dunkeswell, Honiton, Devon EX14 0QZ



countrysceneextra

Written by countryside
correspondent
TONY JACKSON



Will badger cull now be abandoned?

A FRIEND who farms near Broadwindsor rang a few days ago to tell me that his flock of sheep had come under siege from an animal or animals. Over a period of four nights a sheep had been killed, one each night, and in each case the rear end of the animal had been eaten out.

Was it the work, he wondered of a dog or dogs or could the culprit possibly be a big cat?

No prints could be found as the sheep were attacked in a grass field. It is, perhaps, significant that one sheep was hit each night. Had several sheep been mauled and injured or killed in one attack I would suggest that dogs were to blame, but it strikes me as very unlikely that a dog would return night after night to kill one sheep on each occasion.

It occurs me that this could well have been the work of a big cat. We know that there is more than one in the area and a single kill is typical of a puma or leopard type animal.

However, it is also likely that the carcasses may have been later scavenged by badgers or foxes. A big cat will usually kill either by biting the nape of its victim's neck,

crushing the vertebrae, or else holding the throat to suffocate the animal. In the latter case bite marks may not be obvious unless the throat is skinned and then puncture marks about 1.5 to 2in wide may be found.

Cats will also discard intestines but instead eat out the meat under the rump, and consume the liver, kidneys and heart. The amount consumed in one sitting may be 10lb of meat and upwards.

Dog attacks are usually much wilder and more indiscriminate. Sheep may be bitten on the neck and stomach and the back legs ripped where the dog or dogs have tried to pull the animal down. If it is killed it is not usually eaten, but badgers and foxes will both scavenge a carcass. This is the first case of sheep killing I have heard of in our area for some time.

Several years ago I inspected several sheep which had been destroyed near Kilmington, but it was impossible to determine the killer, however, another sheep, a large, heavy ewe killed near Chardstock, exhibited all the signs of a big cat kill. The animal had been dragged 20 or so feet from where it was the killed, the neck

was broken and the body eaten out in typical cat fashion, the ribs rasped clean by the cat's rough tongue.

Meanwhile, perhaps badgers will drop out of the news for a few months now that the cull, which was imminent, has been cancelled until next year. The reasons offered, namely that there has been a massive under-estimation of the badger population in the two designated areas, Gloucester and West Somerset, plus the fact that the animals will shortly be going into hibernation, would appear to indicate a degree of incompetence on the part of Defra that is almost beyond belief. It has also, apparently, taken the police for ever to amend the Firearm Certificates of those undertaking the cull.

My bet, for what it's worth, is that reasons will be found next year to dismiss the proposed badger cull as impractical and, far more important, likely to result in an increase in bovine TB. However, the fact remains that the badger population is far too high at the moment for its own good, though doubtless the badger huggers will again be out in force if the animals again appear under

threat. Would they be quite so vociferous, I wonder, if the TB carriers had been rats?

Meanwhile, I am very sorry to learn that David Walters, who for so long has produced the excellent twice monthly newsletter dealing with the birds and natural wildlife events of the Seaton marshes is in poor health and unable to continue with what has proved to be a fascinating and so useful document. Well illustrated with colour photos and up-to-the-minute reports of latest bird arrivals and sightings, the newsletters were eagerly awaited each month. However, I realise that their production involved a great deal of dedicated work. Is there no one out there who could perhaps carry on David's good work?

If there is, perhaps they would like to get in touch with Ian Waite who is closely involved with the marshes and their bird life. Ian tells me that he has a bird-watching trip from the Seaton tram on November 9 and there will be a single trip in December of the 28th with Donald Campbell. Ian can be contacted at waite@relaxatseaton.co.uk.

DORSET Wildlife Trust, an organisation which performs practical work to assist wildlife, has launched an appeal to help three areas under threat ... woodland, bumble-bees and the birds of Brownsea Island's lagoon.

Funding vital conservation work is becoming increasingly difficult in the current economic climate and the DWT hopes to raise £42,000 to assist these three projects.

Match funding is also available and anyone donating can choose which project they would like their money spent on.

The woodland conservation programme is intended to restore and create small woods, including wet woods. Plans include planting 1,500 native trees near Weymouth, restoring seven wet woods across Dorset and protecting small woods in Purbeck. Bumble-bees are, we know, in serious decline and there are plans to restore and manage flower-rich grasslands in West Dorset which could mean the difference between survival and extinction for some bumble-bee species in the county.

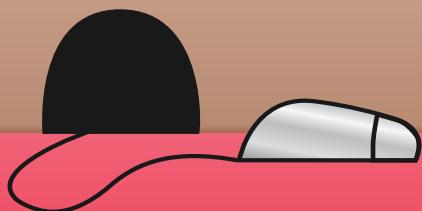
Urgent improvement is needed to repair and maintain the bird

nesting islands in Brownsea Island lagoon, while the pumps and sluices that control the water level, allowing birds to rest, feed and nest on this internationally important site require attention.

So, if you feel that you can make a donation towards these important projects visit www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/savewildlife or call 01305 264620.

Moth enthusiasts may be interested to learn that a rare seaside moth has been discovered on Brownsea Island nature reserve for the first time. Over 700 species of moth have been found on the island by moth trapping but the latest discovery, known only by its Latin name, *Gymnancyla canella*, thought to be extinct in Dorset was discovered on a rare plant, prickly sandwort, which provides food for the moth's larvae and which now grows on the beaches at Brownsea Island.

I also understand that Dorset Wildlife Trust is seeking volunteers to help monitor the plants and other wildlife of the seashore and would welcome anyone who would like to help. Ring 01929 481044.



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David says: 'Don't be afraid of the mouse!'

LOCAL computer expert David Tomlinson says: "The over 50's are being left on the wrong side of the digital divide as a whole generation has missed out on the growth of the Internet."

He intends to reverse this trend by encouraging people in the Taunton area to take up the challenge and have some computer fun.

He is one of many newly recruited tutors who have been trained and appointed by Silver Training to provide a unique, one-to-one computer tuition service directly to people in their own homes.

David teaches all the popular topics such as Computer Basics, Emailing, Internet Shopping and Researching Hobbies. He can even show you how to make free phone and video calls to friends and family all over the world by using an Internet program called SKYPE.

"Keeping in contact with friends and family and finding out information are amongst the most popular requests we have," David says.

"Handling photos and shopping online are also becoming increasingly popular."

Silver Training is unique in that it focuses on ongoing training rather than merely fixing problems. Its network of tutors are all centrally managed, trained, vetted and branded.

"We are all part of an established company", says David, "which means clients can trust us and have faith in the service."

The training service also includes computer buying advice, installation, Internet set-up and general assistance. Accompanying training material is provided.

David says "It is never too late to start", as demonstrated by one of Silver Training's clients aged 93!

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Complete Meats

Award Winning Butchers

WINTER is the time for long lunches and gatherings with friends. So whether you're looking for all the ingredients for a fabulous dinner or just some tasty cold meat and lovely cheese, then Complete Meats will be able to help you out. New for Christmas this year they are producing a fabulous three bird roast made with succulent turkey, duck and chicken, easy to carve and delicious eaten hot or cold.

With locally produced meat and poultry, multi-award winning sausages and some more unusual items like Biltong and Chilli Bites, Complete Meats makes a great asset to our local High Streets. Their three local butchers shops (Chard, Axminster and Honiton) offer a traditionally friendly service and the Honiton Shop has recently been short listed nationally for the Butchers Shop of the Year.

Other recent awards include a clutch of Gold and Silvers from BPEX and the Taste of the West. Complete Meats are now taking orders for Christmas, so pop in and chat to the staff about your meat requirements.



CHRISTMAS ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN

Locally produced Christmas poultry, local free range meat and festive fayre

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER BOX - £34.99 feeds up to eight people

**NEW FOR 2012!
THREE BIRD ROAST**

COMPLETE MEATS

Axminster: 01297 631506 Chard: 01460 65828
Honiton: 01404 47111
www.completemeats.co.uk



Beech Hayes Farm

CHRISTMAS is always a busy time at Beech Hayes Farm and has been for 20 years. because we have been producing turkeys here since 1992.

Beech Hayes Farm has grown over this, time and is able to offer a large range of delicious Christmas Fare, from the super succulent free range blackdown bronze turkey through to

rare breed pork, hams, bacon and bangers, including the famous blackdown banger.

Our festive range also includes 3 week hung native breed beef, gourmet geese and champion free range chickens.

See our advert for details and ask us about our Christmas 'hampers'.



The Tastiest Free Range Turkey

Grown slowly to maturity,
Dry plucked,
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Fattened on Oats for the Extra
Buttery Finish.

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www.blackdownbronze.co.uk



CHRISTMAS MENU

Available every day 12-3 / 6-9 from 1st December – 23rd December
 Two Course Christmas Menu priced at £18.95 per person
 Three Course Christmas Menu priced at £21.95 per person

STARTERS

Broccoli & Stilton Soup / Roast Squash and Sweet Potato Soup (v)
 Ham Hock and Carrot Terrine, Spicy Tomato & Onion Chutney with bread
 Duck Liver and Armagnac Pate with Melba Toast
 Beetroot, Goats Cheese and Cranberry Parcel with leaves (v)

MAINS

Roast Turkey with roasted root vegetables, roast potatoes, pigs in blanket, honey roasted parsnips and home made gravy
 Roast Beef served same as above
 Lentil Roast served as above with home made vegetarian gravy(v)
 Salmon Fillet in a White Wine and Dill Sauce with Duchess Potatoes and Vegetables

DESSERTS

West Country Cheese Board with home made chutney
 Sticky Toffee Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream
 Chocolate and Brandy Torte with Spiced Berry Compote
 Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce or Custard

OPTIONAL EXTRA COURSE (£2.95) - Homemade Orange Pastry Mince Pies and Coffee

PLEASE RING US ON

01404 841267

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES

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info@drewearmsinn.co.uk
 www.drewearmsinn.co.uk



LAMB & FLAG

Lamb & Flag, Blagdon Hill TA3 7SL
 01823 421736 www.lambandflag.co.uk

CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU 2012

Mixed Game Terrine with red onion & cranberry marmalade

Roasted parsnip Soup with parsnip crisps & curry crème fraîche

Smoked Haddock & Prawn Gratin in a white wine sauce
 with lightly toasted breadcrumbs

□□□

Traditional Roast Turkey Dinner with a pistachio stuffing, chipolatas & cranberry sauce

Bouillabaisse with red mullet, mussels & king prawns

Chestnut, Hazelnut, walnut & cranberry Loaf
 with a rosemary & orange sauce

Slow Cooked Local Venison in a juniper & red wine,
 finished with bitter chocolate

All Served with roast potatoes & roasted vegetables

□□□

Christmas pudding with a white brandy sauce

Poached Pears In mulled wine syrup with vanilla cream

Zesty lemon Tart Served with a raspberry coulis

Cheese board

Christmas Menu available from December 1st to December 23rd.
 Booking and pre-ordered menu choices must be made at
 least seven days from party dinner date.

Three courses £25.95 per head Two courses £22.95 per head



CHRISTMAS

THE RAILWAY

Passionate about Food!

Evening Christmas Party Menu £29.95

3 courses with a free glass of Prosecco & mince pies

Our incredible Italian Meat selection, Chargrilled vegetables, Olives from Morocco, Italian cheeses & Fritto Misto Antipasti Wood Boards to Share with Homemade bread, olive oil & balsamic vinegar (Gluten free available)

Locatelli's Porchetta- A delicious dish of slow cooked Shoulder of Free range Pork stuffed with an Italian Sausage meat, chicken liver, fennel pollen, paprika & parmesan stuffing, crispy & salted crackling, Tartiflette (cheesy Potato gratin), Proper Meat Gravy & Roasted Winter Vegetables

Fish in a Bag - Responsibly sourced fillet of Welsh Seabass with clams, mussels, tennel, pinot grigio, garlic butter, baby plum tomatoes & Cannellini beans (Gluten free)

Pollo Con Funghi olive - Chargrilled butterflied chicken breast with a buttery porcini mushroom, pinot grigio, Smoked pancetta & thyme sauce served with a roasted new potatoes & onions in sage butter (Gluten free)

The Waldorf Risotto: Pink Lady apple & toasted walnut risotto with creamy Gorgonzola (V) (Gluten free)

Warm Cherry and almond Tarte with spiced clementines

La Torta Della Nonna: My Grand Mothers Rich Chocolate & Brandy Torte with a Dolce de leche ice cream (Gluten free)

Raspberry & Prosecco Jelly - Clear prosecco jelly, fresh raspberries & vanilla ice cream (Gluten free)

Classic French Vanilla Crème Brûlée with Almond Biscotti

Marco's incredible Handmade Mini mince pies

Tel: 01404 47976

Please note: A deposit of £5 per head per person is required on the day of booking. We require 48 hours notice to cancel a guest or a party otherwise deposits will be withheld. Thanks for your understanding.

Christmas at the Eagle Tavern 2012

CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU

STARTERS

Goats Cheese and Sun blushed Tomato Tartlet

Wild Mushroom Soup

Spicy Homemade Crab Cakes

Duck a'l'orange Pate

Trio of Melon Balls laced with a hint of port

MAIN COURSE

Served from our fantastic Carvery

Devonshire Roasted Turkey

Roast Topside of local Beef

Roast Devon leg of Pork with crispy crackling

Yellow Fin Sole stuffed with Smoked Haddock and Spinach

Eagle Tavern Individual Nut Roast

(All Served with roast and new potatoes, honey roasted parsnips, a selection of seasonal vegetables and all the trimmings from the carvery)

DESSERTS

Individual Traditional Christmas Pudding

Lemon and Lime Bavarois

Gooey Belgium Warm Chocolate Pudding

Raspberry Cheesecake

White Chocolate Mud Pie

.....

Coffee and Home-made Mince Pies

EAGLE TAVERN CHRISTMAS PARTIES

With Christmas just around the corner, we are please to present our Christmas 2012 menu. This will be available for lunch and dinner throughout December excluding Sundays; ideal for celebrating the festive season with family or friends. We are offering a choice of either two or three courses so whether you prefer a lighter meal or the full works we can cater for your needs. We can comfortably accommodate party bookings of up to 50 people. We look forward to welcoming you to the Eagle Tavern over the festive season.

£19.95 per person 3 Course with Coffee & Mince Pies £15.95 per person 2 Courses (Main course and Dessert) with Coffee and Mince Pies Luxury Crackers included in the price.

EAGLE TAVERN CHRISTMAS DAY

Please join us for a complete Christmas day experience at the Eagle Tavern. Celebrated in our beautiful inn with glowing log fires and a friendly family atmosphere.

Your festivities will include a fantastic 6 course meal with luxury crackers and decorations at each table. Book now for Christmas Day, let the team at the Eagle Tavern do all the work for you. One sitting 12-12.30, Finish for 3pm £49.95 per person (£30 for under 10's)

Main Road A303, Buckland St. Mary,
 Chard, Somerset, TA20 3JE Tel 01460 234292

E-mail: davidherd@btconnect.com

Website: eagle-tavern.co.uk



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Our traditional Christmas Lunch
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or alternatively

Book for our 3 Course Party Menu
only £16.95

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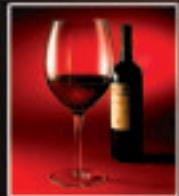
or email mail@thewhitehartwilmington.co.uk

To book or for a menu



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Party's and groups welcome
BOOKINGS ONLY

Normal menu also available
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West Buckland - Nr Wellington - Somerset - TA21 9HX

Christmas Menu 2012

Homemade soup of the day served with half a baguette

Trio of breaded cheeses with cranberry sauce
(Camembert, Brie & Mozzarella)

Spicy westcountry crab cakes with red pepper dressing
Creamy garlic mushrooms with slices of crispy garlic bread

Traditional Christmas Dinner, Turkey served with sausages
wrapped in bacon, sage & onion stuffing, roast potatoes,
seasonal vegetables and cranberry sauce

Tagliatelle with king prawns and lemon sauce, served with salad

Roast Beef served with seasonal vegetables,
roast potatoes and Yorkshire pudding

Spinach, mushroom, hazelnut and brie wellington served with a
warm cranberry sauce new potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce or custard
Cinnamon ice cream Sticky toffee pudding with double cream

Baked rum & raisin cheesecake with double cream

Coffee & Mince Pies

3 Courses & Coffee & Mince pies £19.95

2 Courses & Coffee & Mince pies £16.95

1 Course & Coffee & Mince Pies £11.95

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Looking for the perfect venue for your Christmas Party?

To Start

Spiced butternut squash soup, served with crusty bread
Salad of pear, Exmoor blue cheese & toasted walnuts, walnut oil
Chicken terrine with grape & Sauternes jelly & melba toast
Smoked pheasant breast, redcurrant coulis, watercress & orange salad

Main Courses

Ballotine of turkey breast, stuffed with sage & apple, wrapped in bacon,
thyme jus, roasted chestnuts, cranberry sauce,
Medallions of venison, blackcurrant & port Jus,
roasted root vegetables, dauphinoise potatoes
Lemon & herb crusted fillet of cod with slow roasted tomatoes,
minted pea puree & crispy pancetta
4 nut roast, (Brazil, walnut, cashew, pistachio) tomato coulis & a basil crisp

Puddings

Glazed orange & lemon bread & butter pudding, clotted cream
Dark chocolate & chestnut tart & vanilla cream
Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy custard
Westcountry cheeseboard with celery & grapes

3 courses £20.00 (2 courses £16.00) includes coffee & mince pies & crackers

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Flying direct from Exeter - A Newmarket 'GOLD' Escorted Holiday
Departs 9 September 2013

This very special holiday, in addition to half-board accommodation in a choice of hotels on the beautiful Lapad peninsula close to the walled city of Dubrovnik, features four wonderful excursions, including exquisite Dubrovnik, historic Mostar and the stunning scenery of Montenegro, taken in the company of your friendly, knowledgeable Tour Manager.

Price includes

- Return flights to Dubrovnik from Exeter

- Seven nights' half-board accommodation at the three-star Hotel Astartea (a choice of three and four-star Hotel upgrades are available for a supplement)
- Escorted excursions to Dubrovnik, Mostar and the Neretva delta, Montenegro, and a cruise to the offshore Elaphite islands
- Airport transfers and coach travel throughout
- The services of a Tour Manager



6 days from
£639.00

André Rieu live in Vienna

Six-Day Scenic Heart of Europe Tour
Departs 16 May 2013

Discover two of Europe's greatest cities and enjoy the unforgettable experience of seeing the Dutch maestro live in Vienna's famous Stadthalle.

Price includes

- Return flights from Bristol airport to Prague
- 2 nights' bed & breakfast in a 3-star hotel in Vienna
- 3 nights' bed & breakfast in a 3-star hotel in Prague
- Four-star & four-star superior hotels available at a supplement in both cities
- Airport-Hotel transfers
- Category 4 ticket for André Rieu in Vienna (ticket upgrades available at a supplement)
- Coach travel throughout
- The Services of a Newmarket Tour Manager



Save
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per couple**

4 days NOW from
£259pp

Rhine Christmas Markets River Cruise on board ms Olympia

Departs 11 December 2012

Join us on board well-appointed ms Olympia from Boppard through the heart of the Rhine Valley, calling at Rüdesheim and Koblenz, home to some of the Rhine's best-loved Christmas Markets. There's also a chance, on an optional excursion, to visit Cochem. With meals on board, and a festive atmosphere, this will be a Christmastime break to remember.

Price includes

- Return coach travel to Germany
- 3 nights' full board in a lower deck cabin on-board ms Olympia (upgrade cabin available at a supplement)
- Evening entertainment
- Calls to Boppard, Rüdesheim (via the Rhine Gorge) and Koblenz
- The services of a friendly, professional crew & cruise staff



New Year in London

London's New Year celebrations are truly amazing with a firework display at midnight the city transforms into one massive street. On New Year's Day enjoy the spectacular London Parade.

Departs 31 Dec 2012

2 days from £129.00

New Year in the German Valleys

Welcome in 2013 in the stunning surroundings of the Rhine and Moselle Valleys! With visits to Rüdesheim, the Loreley, Cochem and Koblenz.

Departs 30 Dec 2012

4 days from £219.00

Lincoln Christmas Market

Soak up some Yuletide cheer on this festive break to Lincoln's famous and much-loved Christmas Market. With over 300 stalls selling anything & everything for the festive season.

Departs 8 Dec 2012

2 days from £79.95

Jersey's Christmas Markets The Festive Fête dé Noué

Flying direct from Exeter

Spend a festive few days in St Helier, enjoying some of Jersey's seasonal events. Excellent accommodation, transfers and a guided island tour are all part of this wonderful break.

Departs 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 Dec 2012

4 days from £359.00

Four-Star Christmas in Spain

Leave the cold and grey behind and spend the festive season on Spain's beautiful Costa Brava, enjoying Christmas with all the trimmings in the four-star Evenia Olympic Park hotel.

Departs 22 Dec 2012

7 days from £379.00

Brussels and Bruges Christmas Markets

Visit two of Belgium's most famous cities and soak up all the magic of their enchanting Christmas markets while flooded with festive cheer!

Departs 14 Dec 2012

3 days from £139.95

The Best of Springtime Holland

Flying direct from Exeter

Book by 30 November 2012 & SAVE £100 per couple*

Delightful Amsterdam and the picturesque Dutch waterways combine to make a perfect, colour-filled springtime cruise.

Departs in Apr 2013

6 days NOW from £689pp

*£50pp discount applies if booked by 30 Nov 2012. Offer subject to availability & may be withdrawn at any time.

Belfast and the Titanic Experience

Flying direct from Exeter

Join us for an unforgettable break in one of Europe's fastest-changing, fun- and fascination-packed cities.

Departs 15 Apr, 3 Jun 2013

4 days from £305.00

Capri, Pompeii & the Amalfi Coast

Flying direct from Exeter

This hugely popular escorted holiday, based in fabled in the Neapolitan Riviera, radiates southern Mediterranean charm and warmth.

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8 days from £779.00

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Tick brochure(s) required: Dubrovnik and the Treasures of the Adriatic - DVK André Rieu live in Vienna - VDH Rhine Christmas Markets River Cruise - RFT New Year in London - LNY New Year in the German Valleys - GNY Lincoln Christmas Market - GXM Jersey's Christmas Markets - JCT Four-Star Christmas in Spain - CSA Brussels & Bruges Christmas Markets - BRL The Best of Springtime Holland - EHI Belfast & the Titanic Experience - BJJ Capri, Pompeii & the Amalfi Coast - OZA

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Holidays organised & operated by Newmarket Promotions/Air Holidays Ltd. ABTA V787X/V7812. ATOL protected 2325. Subject to availability. Single supplements apply. Calls cost 4p per minute. **£30pp discount applies if booked by 30 Nov 2012. Offer subject to availability & may be withdrawn at any time.



LeisureReview



Open days at Corrymoor

CORRYMOOR Farm, makers of the famous Corrymoor socks will hold their annual open farm weekend on November 3rd and 4th. Guided walks start at 11.30am.

Visitors are invited to see the goats relaxing in their winter accommodation. There is a huge range of socks, scarves and throws to purchase - something for everyone. As always there are always some brilliant bargains to be had in the boxes of seconds.

So that's not just socks, Steve and Jenny Whitley and their staff have also invited a

few local businesses along to sell their wares and the international relief charity, Shelterbox will be demonstrating just what goes into a Shelterbox. The ladies from Stockland will again be raising money for the Village Hall, so come for tea and coffee and sample their delicious cakes and light lunches which are available throughout the day. Staff have their fingers crossed for some decent weather so that visitors can walk around the farm and enjoy the beauty of this very special and unspoilt part of the Westcountry.

Countryside volunteers needed

EVERY winter the National Trust East Devon Rangers manage Combe Wood near Honiton for wildlife. They carry out woodland management from October until the end of March.

They are looking for volunteers to come and help once a fortnight, the next event being on **Tuesday, November 6th** and finishing on Tuesday 26th March 2013.

Working as a small team along side the rangers, volunteers will be carrying out coppicing of hazel and felling of small trees to open up the canopy for wildlife and wildflowers such as bluebells. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm for working outdoors in all weathers and an interest in the countryside. All tools are provided. Please bring a packed lunch and wear suitable outdoor clothing and stout footwear that you don't mind getting muddy or wet, or both!

Meet at the main gated entrance to Combe Wood at 10am, which can be accessed on foot from Honiton High Street. Finish time - 3pm.

JOIN the National Trust rangers in clearing overhanging branches along the avenue to Wellington Monument on **November 7th**

They will be clearing the lower branches to improve the walk and view from the car park to the monument. All training and protective equipment will be supplied, simply bring yourself, your lunch and dress suitably for the weather. Starts at 10 am - finishes at 15.30pm.

LEARN how to monitor the Schedule Ancient Monuments of the Blackdown Hills. English Heritage and the AONB team are running this special training day for willing volunteers who will then be allocated a monument. This involves twice yearly site visits, photography, and survey work. All will be explained at the training day. In the afternoon we will do some hands-on monitoring of a nearby Schedule Ancient Monument.

The training takes place at Membury Village Hall on **November 16th** from 10am to 3.30pm. There is no cost but booking essential.

For more information: Contact Linda Bennett at the Blackdown Hills AONB team on 01823 680681 / linda.bennett@devon.gov.uk

THE Blackdown Hills Walking Group invites anyone interested to join a walk to Culmstock Beacon along quiet lanes, tracks and footpaths (7.5 miles/11km. Pen Cross, Culm Pyne Barton, Black Down Common, Culmstock Beacon, River Culm and Owlecombe Common)

The walk takes place on **November 25th** starting at Hemyock village car park, assemble 10.15am for a 10.30 start (finish around 3.30pm please bring a picnic lunch). For more information contact Allen Holway 01823 681522.

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KERSWELL 1 Acre
 A beautiful Victorian edge of village farmhouse with outbuildings in nearly 1 acre. Farmhouse kitchen with Aga, 2 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. 1780 sq ft of outbuildings. Ref: 53933
 Guide price £565,000

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UNDER OFFER



UFFCULME
 A newly built three bedroom detached bungalow. Internally fitted to a high specification and close to the village centre. Sitting room, kitchen/dining room. Detached garage & ample parking. Enclosed private gardens. Ref: 51856
 Guide price £299,000

Wellington Office 01823 662822



WELLINGTON Up to 5 Acres
 A beautiful green oak framed barn conversion set in private grounds including Linhay garage and workshop with option to purchase adjoining 5 acre field with large agricultural building/stable/ workshop. Porch & hallway. Cloakroom & store. Sitting room, kitchen/dining room, master bedroom with en suite shower room, 2 further bedrooms & family bathroom. Attractive gardens, paddock & orchard. Ref: 42935
 Guide price £495,000

Wellington Office 01823 662822



COTLEIGH 0.5 Acre
 A beautiful Grade II Listed thatched cottage in a delightful rural location with countryside views. 2 Receptions, kitchen/breakfast room, 3 double bedrooms & bathroom. Gardens, driveway & garage. Lovely rural views. Ref: 49474
 Guide price £495,000

Honiton Office 01404 45885



SMALLRIDGE 0.7 Acre
 A unique, well presented stone and timber residence, with fine views across the surrounding countryside. Open plan reception room & kitchen, sitting room, 3 bedrooms. Large gardens. Ref: 51966
 Guide price £480,000

Honiton Office 01404 45885



HEMYOCK
 A beautifully presented four bedroom detached family house. Within the school catchment area of Uffculme School. Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, 1 en suite shower room & family bathroom. Front & rear gardens & detached garage. Ref: 53703
 Guide price £237,950

Wellington Office 01823 662822

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

www.stags.co.uk

For advice and assistance on a variety of issues including:

- Valuations
- Rural Planning and Diversification
- Renewables
- Compulsory Purchase and Compensations
- Landlord and Tenant Matters
- Estate Management
- Agri-environmental Schemes

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